

- Group I. Claims 1, 28, 38, 46, 51, 71 and 76-79, drawn to a method, classified in Class 75, subclass 367.
- Group II. Claim 60, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 266, subclass 186.
- Group III. Claim 80, drawn to a product, classified in various classes and subclasses in class 148 or 420, depending upon the composition of the product.

The Examiner stated as follows:

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another and materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice a materially different process, such as a process of heating a room using the exothermic reaction.

The Examiner also stated: Inventions II and III are related as apparatus and product made. The inventions in this relationship are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the apparatus as claimed is not an obvious apparatus for making the product and the apparatus can be used for making a materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case, the apparatus as claimed can be used to make a different product, such as a metal matrix composite product.

The Examiner also states: Inventions III and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different apparatus (MPEP §806.05(g)). In this case the product as claimed can be made by a materially different process, such as an atomizing process.

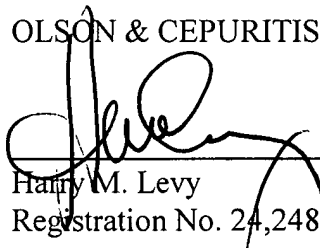
Applicants elect the claims of Group I with traverse.

Claims for examination are 1, 28, 38, 46, 51, 71 and 76-79 drawn to a method.

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Respectfully submitted,

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